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United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

United Nations support is one of the main dimensions of the international community's contribution to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The present report provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the various entities of the United Nations system since May 2007.

The report is organized around the nine clusters established under the regional consultation mechanism of the United Nations agencies working in Africa convened by the Economic Commission for Africa, which broadly correspond to the priorities of NEPAD. The report examines different dimensions of individual and collective activities initiated by entities of the United Nations system, including resource mobilization, as well as the challenges faced by the United Nations system in supporting NEPAD.

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I. Introduction

1. At its forty-fifth session, the Committee for Programme and Coordination recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to report to the Committee at its forty-sixth session and annually thereafter on the support provided by the United Nations system to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (A/60/16, para. 237). The present report is submitted in response to that request, which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/257. Subsequently, in its resolution 62/179, the Assembly requested the United Nations system to continue to provide assistance to the African Union, the NEPAD secretariat and African countries in developing projects and programmes within the scope of the priorities of NEPAD.

II. Support for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

2. The present report sets out in detail the activities that the United Nations system has undertaken in support of NEPAD since May 2007, drawing on inputs received from the individual entities. The support has been organized around the nine thematic clusters corresponding broadly to the priorities of NEPAD.

A. Infrastructure development

3. The infrastructure development cluster comprises water, energy, information and communications technologies (ICT) and transport.

4. The World Bank increased its financial support to NEPAD programmes to about $1 billion during the period under review and approved seven projects: two in the energy sector (the Mozambique-Malawi interconnection project and the regional and domestic power market development project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; two in the transport sector (the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa transport and transit facilitation project and the second phase of the West and Central Africa air transport safety and security programme); one in the telecommunications sector (the regional communication infrastructure programme in East and Southern Africa); one in river basin development (the Niger River basin project); and one supporting agricultural productivity in West Africa. Partnerships and coordination with other development partners have been strengthened, especially with the African Development Bank (AfDB) in the development of complex infrastructure programmes and the cofinancing of large investments.

5. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) continued to implement the recommendations of the report entitled "Partnership framework for ICT infrastructure development in Africa". Completed activities include a feasibility study on mobile phone roaming for West Africa; a network management system for the 15 States members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) under a cost-sharing scheme of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau and the ECOWAS secretariat; and a feasibility study on cross-border broadband connectivity for the East African Community member States (Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania). Other activities that had been completed or were nearing completion during the reporting period included a

feasibility study to include Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region information infrastructure; the design of an Internet protocol intelligent nodes platform for SADC countries, in partnership with the Southern Africa Telecommunications Association; contribution through fellowships and in-house expertise to the ICT infrastructure programme led by the NEPAD e-Africa Commission during a workshop on the Eastern Africa Submarine Cable System regulatory environment; and a joint study of ITU and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) on the impact of ICT on employment and poverty reduction in Africa.

6. ECA organized the Africa Road Safety Conference in February 2007, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO). The Conference issued the Accra Declaration, in which member States were urged to promote road safety as priority in the areas of health, transportation, law enforcement, education and development. It also called upon member States to reduce accident fatalities by half by 2015 and to mainstream road safety into new and existing road infrastructure development programmes.

7. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) evaluated the existing infrastructure in a number of African coastal countries to assist it in the establishment of international search and rescue procedures and maritime rescue coordination centres. IMO approved the establishment of a search and rescue fund to be used for technical cooperation activities along the African coast from Mauritania to Somalia. An evaluation and needs assessment mission on search and rescue was conducted in Monrovia in November 2007 following the signing of the multilateral agreement by Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone for the establishment of a maritime rescue coordination centre in Liberia. A similar assessment mission was carried out in Senegal in November 2007.

8. IMO has provided technical assistance on maritime and port security to a number of African countries. Needs assessment missions on maritime security were fielded to Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania in September 2007 and to Nigeria in November 2007. Similar assessment missions are planned for Angola, Equatorial Guinea, the Gambia, Malawi and Namibia in the first half of 2008. The purpose of the needs assessment missions is to examine with the national authorities the measures and arrangements adopted by the respective countries to implement and enforce the mandatory security provisions in the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code.

9. The International Civil Aviation Organization supports air transport development, particularly in the area of aviation safety, through various technical cooperation projects, including the Cooperative Development of Operational Safety and Continuing Airworthiness Programme, a capacity-building programme in aviation safety oversight that contributes to two NEPAD priorities, namely, regional integration and capacity-building. The projects are being implemented with the support of various regional economic communities, two of which are fully operational in West Africa.

10. As part of the preparation of the 2008 midterm review meeting on the Almaty Programme of Action, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States organized two substantive/thematic meetings that addressed the

physical and non-physical aspects of the transit trade of landlocked developing countries.

B. Governance

11. The governance cluster, which is aimed at promoting the African Peer Review Mechanism, is organized around the themes of political governance and economic and corporate governance. ECA worked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and AfDB in providing advisory services to NEPAD and in supporting the African Peer Review Mechanism secretariat and Panel as well as the process at the continental and country levels. The three institutions also organized consultations with multilateral and bilateral partners to discuss support for accelerating the process at the country level and for implementing their programmes of action. UNDP, ECA and AfDB have been supporting the discussions of the secretariat of the Mechanism on reviewing the African Peer Review Mechanism process, pursuant to the recommendations of the sixth Africa Governance Forum, held in 2006.

12. The seventh Africa Governance Forum, with the theme of building the capable State in Africa, was organized in Burkina Faso in October 2007. Participants agreed on recommendations to boost the efficiency and responsiveness of African Governments in delivering essential social services to their people. Recommendations included increasing Government efforts to consolidate the rule of law; investing in education; factoring women's participation into the process of building the capable State in Africa; and placing importance on good governance as a guarantee of political stability in order to improve the quality of people's lives. A parallel media forum provided participating journalists an opportunity to explore from a media point of view the meaning and definition of a capable state in Africa and to hear about the prevailing capacity-development challenges and opportunities.

13. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa organized a two-day expert group meeting on promoting partnerships in support of African Peer Review Mechanism implementation in November 2007 in Ethiopia. Representatives of Governments and civil society from countries that have undertaken the peer review or are well advanced in the African Peer Review Mechanism process shared experiences and best practices and identified ways of fostering support by all stakeholders, including the international community and the African diaspora. The meeting highlighted the value added for countries from having undertaken the process.

14. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs promoted the implementation of the governance and public administration programme of NEPAD in collaboration with various African institutions, including parliaments, local government ministries and the NEPAD secretariat. In addition, the Department works to strengthen the capacity of socio-economic governance institutions in Africa by providing support to national programmes of good governance within the framework of the implementation of poverty reduction strategies and the Millennium Development Goals.

15. ECA contributed to improvements in macroeconomic policy, especially through its annual Economic Report on Africa and its advocacy activities, including the annual Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. In collaboration with the World Bank and the International Monetary

Fund (IMF), ECA prepared the 2007 review of macroeconomic policy and institutional convergence in Southern Africa. The report includes proposals for addressing impediments to meeting the macroeconomic indicators in the short and medium term.

C. Peace and security

16. The peace and security cluster deals with all aspects of peace and security, comprising the peace and security architecture of the African Union; post-conflict reconstruction and development; and human rights, justice and reconciliation.

17. The sub-cluster on the African Union peace and security architecture provided support to the African Union Commission and its Peace Support Operations Division in the areas of training, the military, police, logistics, finance and communications. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations established an African Union peace support team to ensure efficient and sustained assistance to the African Union in the area of peacekeeping. The team is a dedicated mechanism to assist the African Union in the deployment of an African standby force and in building its long-term institutional capacity to plan, deploy and manage complex multidimensional peacekeeping operations.

18. The sub-cluster on post-conflict reconstruction and development established good working relations with the Commission. A major achievement was the adoption by the Executive Council of the African Union of a comprehensive and strategic policy framework on post-conflict reconstruction and development, which aims to provide a blueprint for post-conflict countries in planning and implementing their own recovery and reconstruction programmes. The sub-cluster is actively involved in supporting the activities of the implementation plan developed by the African Union. The advocacy and support activities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the sub-cluster have played a crucial role in advancing the implementation of various programmes of the African Union, including the dissemination of its policy on post-conflict reconstruction and development and the policy on post-primary education for refugees adopted during the tenth African Union Summit, held in January/February 2008. UNHCR completed 12 post-conflict country assessment reports and initiated a comprehensive Africa-wide report on post-conflict recovery and reconstruction.

19. The Department of Political Affairs contributed to building the capacity of regional and subregional organizations in the areas of conflict prevention, crisis management and the resolution of ongoing conflicts, including through support for post-conflict peacebuilding and in electoral assistance matters. Within the framework of the African Union 10-year capacity-building programme, the Department participated in the development of a training programme on dialogue and mediation. The programme will focus on the needs and interests of the African Union and subregional organizations and draw on the combined experiences of African Union and United Nations staff.

20. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa maintained active collaboration with the Commission and the regional economic communities in the areas of peace, security and disarmament. With external financial support, the Centre organized a subregional training of trainers workshop

in Togo aimed at building the capacity of grass-roots and civil society organizations in West Africa in practical disarmament and peacebuilding skills.

21. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa organized the second International Conference on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration and Stability in Africa, in collaboration with the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo in Kinshasa in June 2007 with support from Belgium and Sweden. The main outcome of the Conference was a set of recommendations aimed at improving the implementation of various national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes in Africa, including the improvement of the multi-country demobilization and reintegration programme approach to reintegrating ex-combatants. It also contributed to strengthening the network of African practitioners of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and building capacity among African stakeholders.

22. As convener of the sub-cluster on human rights, justice and reconciliation, the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights made a deliberate effort to ensure the active involvement of the relevant African Union bodies through a series of meetings. A consultative meeting led to consensus on the priority areas of cooperation for 2008-2009 between the African Union and the United Nations.

D. Agriculture, food security and rural development

23. The objective of this cluster is to contribute to efforts to increase food security and agricultural development, including through the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme.

24. As a follow-up to the Summit on Food Security in Africa, held in Abuja in December 2006, cluster members cooperated in supporting the African Union Commission in implementing the Summit outcomes through an ad hoc follow-up committee set up by the Commission. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP), ECA, AfDB and the World Bank are also members of a partnership platform set up to advance the implementation of Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme pillars at the regional and country levels. The last partnership meeting, held in September 2007 in Addis Ababa, deliberated on measures required for enhancing the implementation of the Programme. A follow-up meeting held in February 2008 in South Africa discussed the roles of specialized institutions in supporting the Programme pillars.

25. The groundwork supported by FAO for the implementation of the Programme at the national and regional levels is almost complete. While many bankable investment projects prepared by Governments have not been submitted for funding to bilateral donors or international financial institutions, many projects have been mainstreamed within larger sector investment programmes. In this context, FAO continued its efforts to mobilize financial and political support to the Programme.

26. The NEPAD secretariat has established expert reference groups under each of the four pillars to facilitate their implementation at the regional and country levels. WFP and FAO contribute to the pillar 3 reference group, which focuses on the eradication of hunger and poverty through increased agricultural productivity, well-integrated markets and expanded purchasing power of vulnerable groups. The group

has finalized a framework for African food security, in which it outlines the causes and consequences of food insecurity in Africa and suggests concrete solutions.

27. WFP has continued to support two NEPAD priority areas in the agricultural sector: boosting agricultural production and promoting food and nutrition security. As a result of coordinated advocacy by the African Union Commission, NEPAD and WFP, the African Union Assembly adopted the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme as a pathway to reducing poverty and hunger and reconfirmed its commitment to implementing the initiative during the 2006 NEPAD-African Union Summit on Food Security. Nigeria and Ghana have launched the programme on a pilot basis with support from NEPAD and WFP. A joint NEPAD/WFP regional workshop on the Programme was held in Accra in October 2007 to review progress, share experiences and strategize towards improving country plans related to home-grown school feeding programmes across the continent.

28. FAO and the African Union Commission have been designated to coordinate the thematic group on agriculture and food security in support of the Africa working group on the Millennium Development Goals. At its first meeting, in February 2008, the group recommended that the accelerated implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, primarily at the country level. It further recommended a massive increase in funding for agriculture and food security and gave particular attention to activities with a comparative advantage for implementation at the regional and subregional levels. The recommendations of the thematic group were endorsed by the working group and were submitted to the Africa steering group on the Millennium Development Goals in March 2008.

29. ECA continues to play an important role in the implementation of the African Union/ECA/AfDB joint initiative on land policy in Africa. The initiative aims to harness global and regional resources to build effective partnerships in support of the quest to improve the management of land and land resources in Africa. In 2007, ECA collaborated with UNDP, FAO, IFAD, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), and the International Land Coalition in organizing an expert group meeting on land policy indicators. The meeting identified strategies for the development of regional and national indicators for land policy, an initial set of benchmarks and a list of indicators for measuring progress in addressing key land issues.

30. In 2007, farmers' organizations actively participated in the design of a large proportion of IFAD projects in Africa and were often involved as implementation partners or service providers. In February 2008, IFAD organized a global farmers' forum to strengthen advocacy of farmers' organizations on behalf of the rural poor and to provide a vehicle for them to submit recommendations directly to the IFAD governance processes, which included strong participation of African farmers' organizations. The African Union has recently requested IFAD support in establishing an African farmers' forum, which can be seen as a concrete result of IFAD support related to farmers' organizations' input into African Union/NEPAD processes.

31. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) continued to support national and regional projects covering mainly the application of radiation and isotopes in pest control, with special emphasis on the eradication of the tsetse flies, and the improvement of crops and of livestock productivity. One of the key areas of the African programme was the transfer of the sterile insect technique in support of

the creation of tsetse-free zones in selected areas in African countries. IAEA continued to provide support to the African Union coordination office of the pan-African tsetse and trypanosomiasis eradication campaign under one regional and nine national projects.

E. Industry, trade and market access

32. The inaugural meeting of this cluster, held in May 2007, agreed on the following priorities: joint policy analysis; mobilization of investments; joint analysis of institutional capacities; investments for industrial development; development of common indicators; and analysis of supply chain constraints.

33. Through the Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme, the World Trade Organization (WTO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC) seek to build capacity and strengthen national knowledge bases on the multilateral trading system in partner countries for more effective participation in trade negotiations, implementation of WTO agreements, formulation of trade-related policies and improvement of supply capacity and market knowledge. During 2006-2007, the programme covered 16 African countries.

34. The integrated framework for trade-related technical assistance is a unique instrument that ensures that trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building are delivered within a coherent policy framework. Thirty African least developed countries are currently benefiting from the framework, which enables countries to work mainly with six agencies (IMF, ITC, UNCTAD, UNDP, the World Bank and WTO) to ensure that national trade policies are integrated into their respective development strategies and to enable least developed countries to become full and active players in the multilateral trading system.

35. As a follow-up to the Aid for Trade conference held in the United Republic of Tanzania in October 2006, WTO hosted the Global Aid for Trade Review Conference in Geneva in November 2007 with the aim of helping African countries build their capacity to expand trade and integrate into the global economy.

36. In February 2007, ECA, in collaboration with UNDP, the African Union Commission and the Government of Kenya, organized an ad hoc expert group meeting to review progress of the economic partnership agreements in Africa. The meeting allowed African countries to coordinate efforts on the remaining steps of the negotiations. Furthermore, in collaboration with UNDP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the African Union Commission, the World Bank and FAO, ECA organized another ad hoc expert group meeting on sensitive products in WTO negotiations, which yielded insights into methods of designing product lists, as well as coordination mechanisms at the subregional level.

37. In June 2007, ECA, in collaboration with UNEP and the African Union Commission, organized a regional expert group meeting on the development of an African eco-labelling mechanism. The participants adopted key recommendations on the development of the mechanism, which would contribute to fulfilling the African Union/NEPAD objectives of expanding access for African products to regional and international markets while at the same time promoting appropriate

environmental and health-related standards in the design and production of African products.

38. IFAD, together with FAO, supported the involvement of African farmers' organizations in the policy dialogue with the European Commission and the secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States on the economic partnership agreements between the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group and the European Union. Major outcomes of this support included a joint assessment by representatives of farmers' organizations to the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group secretariat. This led the way for the discussion of the position of the farmers' organizations during formal sessions of the secretariat in Brussels in February and March 2007 and had an impact on the negotiating processes between African regional economic communities and the European Community.

39. UNCTAD has launched a regional standards programme aimed at enabling African producers and exporters to meet both official and private sector standards. A model for the development of a private/public safety control system for the horticultural sector project was developed and implemented in Guinea to help the Government, producers and exporters comply with agri-food safety standards and quality assurance systems. The project has contributed to opening up new market opportunities for almost 3,000 small farmers. A similar project was launched in Mozambique in April 2007.

40. A number of Governments and institutions in Africa have benefited from UNCTAD support in the area of investment facilitation and promotion. UNCTAD prepared investment policy reviews for Mauritania and Nigeria, presented a blue book on investment promotion and facilitation for Zambia and drafted the investment chapter for the integrated framework for Comoros. Follow-up work on investment policy reviews was undertaken in Benin, Rwanda and Zambia.

41. In 2007, ECA undertook a policy study on customs cooperation within the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the East African Community. The study provided a critical analysis of trade liberalization and proposed a road map for achieving a customs union in East Africa by 2008. As part of the multi-year programmes agreed with regional economic communities, in May 2007 ECA undertook a study to assist the secretariat of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in formulating a more comprehensive development strategy and programmes for its member States in the areas of transport and infrastructure, industrial development and information and communications technologies.

42. The major trade-related activities of UNIDO in sub-Saharan Africa include trade capacity-building programmes in countries members of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMA) and the East African Community, as well as competitiveness support and harmonization of technical barriers to trade and sanitary and phyto-sanitary provisions in WAEMA and other regions.

43. Within the framework of the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) held an Asian-African Forum on Intellectual Property and Traditional Cultural Expressions, Traditional Knowledge and Genetic Resources in Indonesia in 2007 with the aim of exploring enhanced cooperation and coordination between African and Asian countries in the formulation of strategies to maximize international cooperation in the protection of traditional cultural expressions, traditional knowledge and genetic resources.

44. In collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNDP, UNIDO, the ILO and the Southern African Development Community, ECA developed a comprehensive five-year implementation plan on mining for the subregion.

F. Environment, population and urbanization

45. The main focus of the cluster is to assist in the implementation of the NEPAD action plan for the environment initiative.

46. UNEP worked with the regional economic communities on the subregional action plans, which will be submitted to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in June 2008. UNEP supports the efforts of five pilot countries in Africa to develop their national action plans, in line with the proposals made by the Ministerial Conference. Initial consultations on the development of the national action plans for Mozambique, Ethiopia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Ghana and Cameroon have been held. On the basis of the outcomes of those pilot studies, the initiative could be replicated in other African countries.

47. UNEP organized, prior to the thirteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, an African climate change negotiators' meeting in October 2007 in Abuja to ensure that negotiators from African countries were prepared to participate effectively in the Bali discussions. In addition, technical support was provided to the African delegates who attended the Conference of the Parties.

48. All parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change have an obligation to submit regular information on greenhouse gas emissions, measures to mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change and information on capacity-building, technology transfer and financial and technical needs. In 2007, the secretariat of the Convention supported two workshops aimed at identifying and addressing the challenges in preparing those communications, including integrating the results of national communications into national development plans.

49. ECA, in collaboration with the capacity linkages for environmental assessment in Africa, conducted a regional environmental impact assessment workshop in April 2007. The meeting identified practical and feasible measures for improving the quality of environmental impact assessment review, enforcement and compliance, financial sustainability, and the central role of such assessments in environmental governance and sustainable development in Africa. The workshop contributed to strengthening regional and subregional networks and partnerships in environmental impact assessment and management in Africa.

50. In connection with the shared Nubian aquifer project, IAEA supported a training course on the shared aquifer diagnosis analysis aimed at strengthening the capacity of member States to effectively implement the strategy and procedures set up by the Global Environment Facility at both the local and regional levels, and a technical meeting on modelling. IAEA has also continued to support activities related to the management of groundwater resources and the potential of geothermal areas in various countries.

51. The World Bank continued to support capacity-development programmes of regional economic communities and other specialized regional bodies. The Bank

provided additional support in the form of grants to finance technical assistance in priority areas defined by NEPAD and the regional bodies themselves, including the capacity to protect regional biodiversity against potential risks associated with the introduction of living modified organisms into the environment, the capacity of river basin organizations to plan and manage shared water resources for multipurpose utilization and the improvement of accounting, financial reporting and auditing practices up to international standards in West and Southern Africa.

52. Under phase II of the NEPAD cities programme launched in June 2007, UN-Habitat provided substantive backstopping and technical support in three areas: monitoring of progress of African cities in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals; exchange of knowledge and best practices in pro-poor housing and urban development; and technical support for the implementation of pilot demonstration initiatives. Through its water for African cities initiative, UN-Habitat works with Member States, local authorities and utility firms to scale up pilot initiatives for attaining Millennium Development Goal 7. The pilot initiatives provide the necessary institutional arrangements for improving access to water and sanitation for the urban poor. These capacity-building efforts are then followed up with capital investment provided by AfDB and other donors. As at July 2007, the pre-investment packaging of UN-Habitat with AfDB involved over $1 billion in investment in six cities in five African countries.

G. Human resources development, employment and HIV/AIDS

53. The cluster has developed workplans guided by African Union plans of action on HIV/AIDS, employment and human resources.

54. ECA support provided to the African Union Commission and the NEPAD secretariat included analytical studies, advisory services, policy, advocacy and capacity-building. In February 2007, ECA collaborated with the NEPAD secretariat and the African Capacity-Building Foundation in organizing a meeting on the development of a capacity-building strategy for Africa. The meeting produced a framework that defined the principles to underpin the successful implementation of a capacity-building strategy for Africa.

55. IAEA is assisting countries of the African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA) in implementing a regional strategy in human resources development and nuclear knowledge management through the AFRA network for education in nuclear science and technology. A harmonized curriculum for the AFRA master's degree in nuclear science and technology has been adopted as a minimum standard for awarding such a degree in the region. Building on the momentum achieved over the past years, specific training and sensitization have been provided to managers of national nuclear institutions as well as to academia and regional designated centres to help improve national training programmes and facilitate cooperation in the field of education through networking and exchange of training materials.

56. ICAO coordinates four aviation security training centres located in Casablanca, Morocco, Dakar, Johannesburg, South Africa and Nairobi, which play an important role in the delivery of regional aviation security training. A professional managers' course, delivered jointly by ICAO and Concordia University in Montreal, Canada, has been established. This e-learning management course aims

at ensuring that participants are fully knowledgeable in aviation security and relevant management fields. ICAO also conducted an aviation medicine seminar in Gabon in November 2007 aimed specifically at training designated medical examiners.

57. The ITU telecommunication standardization sector, in association with the telecommunication development sector, launched an initiative on capacity-building measures to assist Africa as well as other regions in bridging the standardization gap. During the reporting period, activities of relevance to NEPAD included a decision to hold the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly for the first time in Africa, in October 2008, in Johannesburg, preceded by a global standards symposium. In preparation for the Assembly, a regional development forum on bridging the standardization gap and a preparatory meeting will be held in Accra in May 2008.

58. UNEP, together with various other United Nations entities, is supporting a partnership programme to mainstream environment and sustainability concerns into the teaching, research, community engagement and management of universities in Africa. The mainstreaming environment and sustainability into African universities partnership offers a range of activities, including courses, seminars for university leaders and a biennial conference. The partnership, which strengthens the special focus of UNEP on Africa, is considered a major contribution to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

59. In response to the emphasis of NEPAD on the central role of the private sector in contributing to economic growth and job creation in Africa, the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa held an expert group meeting on the private sector's institutional response to NEPAD: a review of current experience and practices in New York in November 2007. The meeting's policy recommendations highlighted the importance of effectively integrating NEPAD priorities into African countries' economic programmes and the necessity of building capacity in the public sector, the private sector and private sector associations. The Office of the Special Adviser also conducted a study on small-scale enterprise development and foreign direct investment in Africa: challenges and opportunities, which offered a number of recommendations for Governments and transnational corporations to strengthen the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and to ensure that the benefits of foreign direct investment are transferred from transnational corporations to small and medium-sized enterprises through linkages between the two.

60. The ongoing contribution of ILO is twofold: to assist in integrating employment as a key objective of NEPAD and to help incorporate social objectives into NEPAD by showing how employment promotion, social protection and poverty reduction can be approached in an integrated and mutually reinforcing manner. Moreover, ILO brings to NEPAD a people-centred approach to development through the involvement of workers and employers and works closely with all member countries in Africa in the formulation of policy and the implementation of interventions that facilitate employment creation.

61. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has continued to provide direct financial and technical support to African countries to establish programmes for reversing the "brain drain". IOM, under the leadership of WHO, provides guidance to member States on the content and structure of national pandemic influenza preparedness plans for the health sector. IOM is also a member of the task

team charged with encouraging countries to eliminate policies and practices that restrict travel for HIV-positive people and provides technical support to the team in the area of international migration.

62. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS has continued its work to develop an African Union/NEPAD workplan integrating specific deliverables aligned to priorities, within the framework of the 10-year capacity-building programme for United Nations support to the African Union. The main achievements include a review and costing of the African Union implementation plan on HIV and AIDS for 2007-2010; supporting the African Union review of the status of implementation of Africa's common position on HIV/AIDS in collaboration with the Roll Back Malaria Partnership programme; the development, in collaboration with ECA and the African Union Commission, of an AIDS accountability index to measure Africa's progress towards and commitment to universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support; and the provision, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), of support to the African Union for its comprehensive assessment of the impact of AIDS on women and girls in 14 conflict and post-conflict countries in Africa.

H. Science and technology

63. The cluster supports the implementation of the African Union/NEPAD science and technology consolidated plan of action, which was formally adopted by the African Union Summit held in Addis Ababa in January 2007.

64. ECA, in collaboration with ITU, the African Union Commission, AfDB, the World Bank Group, the Global Alliance for ICT and Development and the Digital Solidarity Fund organized the Connect Africa Summit in Rwanda in October 2007. The Summit was aimed at mobilizing the human, financial and technical resources required to close ICT gaps throughout Africa. As a follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society, ECA, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the NEPAD secretariat and ITU coordinated the African regional action plan on the knowledge economy. Project selection and evaluation guidelines were developed by ECA.

65. UNCTAD provides substantive servicing to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to increase awareness of the critical role of science and technology in the development process of African countries and on the leveraging of science and technology tools in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. A science, technology and innovation policy review for Angola has been finalized and is due to be discussed at the eleventh session of the Commission. Two other reviews have been initiated in Ghana and Mauritania, the former being undertaken in close collaboration with the NEPAD Office of Science and Technology.

66. IAEA continued, under the AFRA project, to assist African countries in establishing sustainable national and regional capabilities for using ICT for training and education in the fields of nuclear science and technology relating to agriculture, human health, environmental monitoring, water resources management, nuclear instrumentation and other nuclear and related fields. ICT telecentres were established in Botswana, Nigeria and Senegal. Furthermore, IAEA took an active

part in the organization of the first conference on information and communications technologies in training and learning in nuclear science and technology in Africa, which was held in Niamey in November 2007.

67. The United Nations University organized a Group of Eight/African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology expert meeting on science and technology for Africa's future: towards a sustainable partnership in Berlin in October 2007. The expert meeting was initiated to streamline ongoing and planned activities to advance the implementation of Africa's science and technology consolidated plan of action, the main instrument of the NEPAD and the African Union to develop and use science and technology for the socio-economic transformation of the continent.

68. WIPO has been contributing to human resources development and providing information technology equipment at two African regional institutions, the African Intellectual Property Organization and the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization. As part of the process of imparting a culture of intellectual property, WIPO has fostered exchanges of information among national stakeholders through various avenues, including within the framework of the intellectual property strategies and plans and by means of a peer review mechanism. As part of the efforts to enhance the capacities of small and medium-sized enterprises, WIPO works to equip them to access specialized databases owned by the private sector to spur innovation. Pilot initiatives are to be started in selected member countries of the African Intellectual Property Organization to enhance access to and sharing of patent and other commercial and technical information in the area of intellectual property by research institutions and industry groups.

69. UNESCO supported the NEPAD secretariat and the African Union Commission in organizing several consultations and meetings in follow-up to the eighth African Union Summit devoted to the theme "science, technology and scientific research for development". As a follow-up to the Summit, UNESCO formulated a plan of action concerning UNESCO participation in the implementation of the decisions and declaration of the Summit. Emphasis is placed on three priority programmatic areas: capacity-building in science, technology and innovation policy; fostering science and technology education; and the establishment of an African virtual campus in each of the five regions of the continent.

I. Communication, advocacy and outreach

70. The primary objective of this cluster is to promote advocacy and support for NEPAD at the international, continental and regional levels. The eighth regional consultation meeting of United Nations agencies, held in November 2007, recommended that there be increased communication and information-sharing among the different clusters. Moreover, it was noted that the NEPAD secretariat needed to generate up-to-date information on NEPAD progress and implementation at the country and regional levels. The cluster, which is chaired by the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, aligned its work with the strategic priorities of NEPAD, which were articulated in the NEPAD steering committee document of March 2008.

71. Specifically, the NEPAD secretariat priorities include developing strong relations with the media and increasing interaction with diplomatic communities,

development partners and international organizations. The cluster, composed of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, NEPAD, ECA, AfDB, the African Union, UNDP and the Department of Public Information, met several times to develop and implement a joint cluster media activity, funded in part by UNDP. A senior media dialogue event is expected to be held in Addis Ababa during the third quarter of 2008. The event is intended to improve communication about NEPAD among African journalists by providing them with stories and up-to-date information about NEPAD projects and by creating opportunities for direct contact and interface with senior officials and decision makers from the NEPAD secretariat and the African Union Commission.

72. The Department of Public Information, working closely with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and ECA, participated in the advocacy and communications cluster to help ensure that priority issues related to NEPAD were adequately reflected in the Department's activities and outputs. The Department continued to cover NEPAD in its quarterly magazine *Africa Renewal* through a continuing series of "NEPAD in action" stories. A special edition of the magazine on the goals, achievements and challenges of NEPAD was produced for targeted distribution to the media, academics, civil society groups and others working on behalf of Africa. The Department also arranged for the publication of feature articles on NEPAD and other African development topics in major media in Africa and elsewhere, successfully placing more than 250 such articles between July 2007 and February 2008.

73. The World Bank participated in major strategic meetings aimed at raising interest in NEPAD and mobilizing resources to finance the NEPAD agenda. The World Bank is also promoting coordinated donor support for the implementation of NEPAD programmes through collaborative and coordinated efforts in supporting regional economic groupings.

74. ECA produced three booklets on water, energy and biotechnology to showcase the contributions of United Nations agencies to the development of the respective sectors in the context of the cluster system. A website has been developed and a weekly newsletter aimed at creating awareness about NEPAD implementation is widely circulated. ECA also undertook several advisory missions in support of NEPAD implementation. The services provided have contributed to raising awareness, building capacity and garnering support for the implementation of NEPAD at the regional, subregional and national levels.

75. UNHCR advocated for the development of Africa with a focus on encouraging comprehensive and integrated post-conflict reconstruction and development that facilitates the sustainable return and reintegration of refugees and internally displaced populations; supporting the prevention of forced population displacement; strengthening the protection of displaced populations and creating opportunities for durable solutions for their problems; and promoting measures that enable refugees and internally displaced persons to achieve self-reliance. Advocacy activities included collaboration with the African Union, regional economic communities and other African and regional organizations.

76. UNIFEM initiated advocacy work in line with NEPAD priorities in the areas of peace and security through various initiatives by Governments and women's organizations that sought to build peace and reconciliation within communities affected by or recovering from war (Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the

Congo, Liberia, the Sudan and Uganda); democracy and good governance in the political, economic and corporate arenas (Kenya and Nigeria); regional cooperation and integration through the provision of technical and financial support for baseline surveys on women and informal cross-border trade in Africa (Liberia, Kenya, Niger, the United Republic of Tanzania and in Southern Africa); and addressing feminized poverty (Liberia and Zimbabwe).

III. Policy issues in the implementation of the New Partnership

A. Strengthening of the cluster system and enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union

77. The past year has seen further progress in enhancing the support provided by the United Nations system for the implementation of NEPAD and the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union and in strengthening the cluster system. Following the seventh regional consultation meeting, held in Ethiopia in November 2006, ECA commissioned an external review of the cluster system, which was discussed at an ad hoc expert group meeting in October 2007. The results of the review fed into the discussions at the eighth regional consultation meeting, held in Ethiopia in November 2007. The meeting participants noted progress in terms of increased financing, the provision of substantial support to the African Union and NEPAD, increased advocacy and communication and collaboration and coordination among stakeholders. They also underlined two developments: that two new clusters had been launched and that ECA had become a strategic coordinator, enabling it to provide support to cluster meetings.

78. The recommendations of the meeting included further enhancing leadership and institutional commitment within the cluster system; undertaking joint programming and putting in place coordination and collaboration mechanisms; improving information and communication; prioritizing and rationalizing programme activities; and building the capacity of the African Union Commission, the NEPAD secretariat and the regional economic communities. At the same time, it was noted that systematic monitoring and evaluation remained a challenge. The meeting also recommended that the regional consultation meeting focus more on outcomes and impacts. In that regard, clusters should develop three-year business plans, to be considered and finalized at a strategic planning meeting of all cluster conveners, the African Union Commission, the NEPAD secretariat, regional economic communities, ECA and AfDB.

79. It was also suggested that the cluster system should adequately reflect gender, health and culture issues. Furthermore, there should be increased alignment of cluster activities with the United Nations 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union, and in planning activities, the clusters should take into consideration the strategic plans of the African Union Commission and the NEPAD secretariat, relevant decisions of the African Union and regional economic communities and the outcomes of African Union sectoral ministerial bodies.

80. Regarding the framework for the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union, participants felt that its initial focus on peace and security did not address all the priority needs of African Union Commission. It was recommended that the framework be elaborated so that it could serve as the overall coordination

framework for cooperation between United Nations agencies and the African Union. The meeting also recommended that the African Union Commission provide leadership on the further development and implementation of the programme and that AfDB should be invited to provide support for its implementation.

B. Support for the mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of the New Partnership

81. The 2007 edition of the UNCTAD publication *Economic Development in Africa* examined the potential of African countries to increase their financial resources and discussed how to channel those resources into productive investments in order to increase their efficiency through improvements in domestic financial systems. The report highlighted the need for more policy space for African countries to design and implement policies that make optimal use of available resources in a way that leads to a virtuous circle of accumulation, investment, growth and poverty reduction. In February 2007, UNCTAD launched a development account project to strengthen the capacity of African countries to identify and utilize non-debt-creating domestic and foreign resources for growth and poverty reduction within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals.

82. UNDP has continued to manage and implement the African Peer Review Mechanism trust fund, which has a budget of $7 million to which UNDP contributes $2.75 million. The trust fund supports the personnel of the secretariat and the activities of both the Panel and the secretariat of the Mechanism, including meetings and the publication of review reports.

83. In 2007, IFAD financed 18 programmes for a total amount of $278.8 million. A large proportion of those projects are cofinanced by African countries and other development partners. When cofinancing is taken into account, IFAD-supported projects and programmes in 2007 constituted a total investment of about $560 million. In 2007, IFAD also approved regional and country grants covering selected African countries totalling about $3.6 million, with additional grants accorded to Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research centres for work in Africa totalling some $6.6 million.

84. IOM has provided direct support to African Governments and regional economic communities to implement programmes that assist countries in promoting NEPAD priority areas such as education, information and communications technologies and health. IOM has also raised funds from donor countries as well as the European Commission and UNDP, which have been deployed to support the efforts of African Union member countries. In Rwanda, UNIFEM provided support to the NEPAD secretariat both financially and technically for the African Peer Review Mechanism process.

C. Cross-cutting issues and institutional support

85. In 2007, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States introduced the advocacy strategy on the effective and timely implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action, aimed at accelerating the implementation of the

Programme of Action. The strategy sets out the actions that will be undertaken in the next three years by the United Nations, in collaboration with key partners, to draw attention to the shortfalls, challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the Programme of Action, with special emphasis on areas where progress has been limited or is lacking altogether.

86. IOM has been working with the African Union Commission and various regional economic communities to address the challenges of migration in and from Africa. Over the years, IOM has steadily increased its participation as well as technical support to the African Union and NEPAD, thus advancing the agenda of migration at both the country and regional levels. Its efforts have been geared towards raising governmental awareness of the challenges of migration, advocating for development and harmonization of national and regional migration policies, contributing to the development and adoption of a comprehensive continental strategy in international migration and implementing capacity-building programmes.

87. The contribution of UNFPA to the African Union NEPAD programme since July 2007 has been in the areas of youth, advocacy, health and capacity-building. UNFPA supported the wide dissemination of the African Youth Charter and supported the African Union Commission in a participatory development of a plan of action for the popularization and implementation of the charter. UNFPA provided technical support for the development of the African Union's draft advocacy and communication strategy, which is scheduled to be reviewed by Africa's Ministers of Information in 2008.

88. The collaboration of UNIFEM with other United Nations organizations in support of NEPAD agencies took place within the framework of the NEPAD gender task force and the African Peer Review Mechanism. Through the task force, UNIFEM supports NEPAD effort to mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment in its work. The task force has recorded significant achievements, including successful advocacy for including gender indicators in the African Peer Review Mechanism. UNIFEM and the African Union Commission have established a partnership in three areas: capacity-building for human rights programming, gender mainstreaming and monitoring within the African Union; strengthening women's human rights in conflict and post-conflict situations; and mobilizing women's agency and effective participation through the African Union Economic and Social Council and the Pan-African Parliament.

89. IMF has assisted African countries in capacity-building and is also extending advice on adapting macroeconomic policies to handle the anticipated scaled-up aid flows necessary for financing the Millennium Development Goals. Apart from capacity-building and providing policy advice, IMF has assisted development efforts in Africa through direct financial support and debt relief.

D. Challenges and constraints

90. The eighth regional consultation meeting identified a number of constraints and challenges in the cluster system. Specifically, there is a need for:

- Stronger commitment and leadership
- Increased coordination and collaboration, better alignment of programming cycles, preparation of joint plans and implementation of joint activities

- Increased participation of the African Union Commission, the NEPAD secretariat, regional economic communities and AfDB
- Increased resource mobilization
- Enhanced monitoring and evaluation of activities
- Increased communication and information-sharing

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

91. **As indicated above, support provided by the United Nations system for NEPAD covers various activities, namely, providing technical assistance for institutional development, capacity-building and project development, and mobilization of resources and advocacy.**

92. **The recommendations of various meetings, including the external review of the cluster system and the latest regional consultation meeting, need to be fully implemented. Monitoring and evaluation needs to be improved.**

93. **The African Union Commission, the regional economic communities and the NEPAD secretariat play a crucial role in implementing NEPAD. Greater United Nations inter-agency collaboration rather than a sector-driven approach is needed for strengthening the institutional and technical capacity of those institutions.**

94. **Since NEPAD is a programme of the African Union, the United Nations system should develop an integrated framework for supporting the African Union Commission, which incorporates support of NEPAD. As peace and development are interlinked, the African Union Commission needs as much support from the United Nations system in the area of economic and social development, including regional integration, as in peace and security. A mechanism for consultation between the United Nations system and the African Union Commission should also reflect the expanded support.**

95. **In view of the multidisciplinary nature of development challenges facing Africa, entities of the United Nations system should further harmonize their policies and support so that their collective and concerted actions can create synergies across thematic clusters. Improved cross-sectoral collaboration could help in mainstreaming a number of cross-cutting issues, such as HIV/AIDS, gender and human rights.**

96. **Since fragmentation and the unpredictability of non-core resources lead to inefficiencies in the United Nations system, an expanded source of funding to ensure adequate, predictable and timely core resources is needed to ensure the success of United Nations support for NEPAD. In order to expand the possibility of undertaking additional joint activities, United Nations entities require common funding for new programmes.**